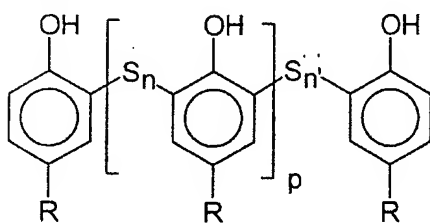


CLAIMS

1. A sulfur-vulcanizable elastomeric composition comprising at least one diene elastomer and at least one reinforcing filler, characterized in that it can be obtained by a process comprising the mixing of said elastomer and said filler with an effective amount of a coupling agent consisting of a combination of:

- 10 to 90%, preferably 50 to 70%, of a product (I) consisting of a blend of poly(alkylphenol) polysulfides of formula:



(I)

in which:

- R is an alkyl radical containing 1 to 20, preferably 4 to 10, carbon atoms;

- n and n' are two integers, which may be identical or different, from 1 to 8, preferably from 1 to 4;

- p is an integer from 0 to 50, preferably from 0 to 20; and

- 10 to 90%, preferably 30 to 50%, of a product (II) consisting of bis(triethoxysilylpropyl)tetrasulfide.

2. The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that one or more elastomers chosen from polybutadiene and poly(styrene/butadiene) are used.

3. The elastomeric composition as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that a white reinforcing filler is used.

4. The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the white filler is silica, by itself or as a mixture with alumina.

5 5. The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that a mixture of compounds of formula (I) is used in which R is an alkyl radical containing at least one tertiary carbon via which R is linked to the aromatic ring.

10

6. The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that R is a *tert*-butyl or *tert*-pentyl radical.

15 7. The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that, as mixture of compounds of formula (I), a mixture is used in which the average value of n and of n' is about 2 and the average value of p is about 5.

20

8. The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the (I)/(II) weight ratio is from 1 to 3 and preferably about 2.

25 9. The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of claims 3 to 8, characterized in that it is obtained by mixing, with 100 parts by weight of diene elastomer(s):

- 10 to 200, preferably between 20 and 150, parts by weight of white reinforcing filler; and

30 - 0.5 to 10, preferably 2 to 8, parts by weight of coupling agent as defined above.

10. The elastomeric composition as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that 50 to 100 parts by weight of silica and 5 to 7 parts by weight of the coupling agent are mixed with 100 parts by weight of diene elastomer(s).

35

11. The elastomeric composition as claimed in one of

claims 1 to 10, characterized in that standard non-sulfur-containing additives are also incorporated.

12. The elastomeric composition as claimed in
5 claim 11, characterized in that the diene elastomer, the reinforcing filler, the products (I) and (II) and the non-sulfur-containing additives are subjected to mechanical working, including at least one thermal step
10 at a temperature of between 130°C and 170°C, preferably between 130°C and 150°C.

13. The elastomeric composition as claimed in either
of claims 11 and 12, characterized in that a
vulcanization system comprising in particular sulfur
15 and vulcanization accelerators, is also added, by finish mechanical working.

14. A coupling agent as defined in one of claims 1 and
5 to 8.
20

15. A molded article that can be obtained by forming
the composition as defined in claim 13 followed by
heating.

25 16. The molded article as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it is a tire tread.